Dirksen Says 3 Attempts Were Plotted to Kill Him

Given Special Protection After Each Report

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois disclosed Thursday that he was notified by official sources three times in recent months that attempts on his life were planned.

He was given special protection on each occasion, Dirksen said.

He declined to tell newsmen how the plans were discovered or who was said to have been involved.

Dirksen, the Senate minority leader, said that "I was supposed to have been assassinated in my office" late last month.

He said the information came from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which assigned agents to him during a trip he made to Illinois the same week the tumultuous Democratic National Convention was under way in Chicago.

Dirksen also told reporters that:

Several weeks earlier he was visited at his home near Leesburg, Va., by the Loudon County sheriff and two uniformed deputies who told that: "A man wants to blow your head off with a shotgun."

And, a military policeman assigned to guard him on a visit to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington prior to the Leesburg incident told him "there is a man who wants to kill you," Dirksen said.

The minority leader said that, when he arrived in Illinois after the FBI told him of a reported plot, he was met by police detectives, members of the sheriff's department, FBI agents and Secret Service agents.

At one point during his campaign tour of his home state, Dirksen said, he received a police report that, "They know when you left Decatur."

Dirksen declined to speculate on whether the reference to "they" indicated a conspiracy or to indicate whether he knew who were the persons reportedly involved.

Dirksen discussed the reported plans on his life at a news conference while defending measures used by the Chicago police to put down disorder during the Democratic convention.

POLICE REACTION

He said he personally witnessed antiwar demonstrators trying to storm the Conrad Hilton headquarters hotel and said police reaction was proportionate to the provocation.

Dirksen recalled statements by Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago that plots to assassinate principal figures at the convention had been uncovered. Dirksen then reported his own experiences.

Dirksen's recital of the reported assassination plans wasn't all grim.

When the Loudon County sheriff told him someone wanted to blow his head off, Dirksen said his reaction was:

"I don't want my head blown off. I've got flowers in bloom and they need me. I've got 65 bird feeders and the birds need me. Whoever this creature is, why doesn't he wait until the frost has slashed at the flowers and the birds have gone south.

Then it won't be so hard to take."

And he had this comment on being told at Walter Reed hospital that someone planned to kill him: "How cute. If I have to be killed, I can't think of a better place than a hospital. You don't have so far to fall."